

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### General Assembly Returns for Special Session



*By State Representative John J. Ryan*

It is mid-October, and it is back to Hartford for yet another Special Session! I am becoming reluctantly convinced that I may never see another Session in the General Assembly when we actually stick to our Constitutional schedule, because "extra-inning" Special Sessions have now become the norm (and virtually no part of the calendar year is sacrosanct) rather than the exception.

As I write this, we are convening the Special Session, which is supposedly on the topic of campaign finance reform, but the majority Democrats are making noises about wanting to expand it to include numerous other topics (now there's a surprise for you!), so by the time you are reading this, you will know what, if anything, actually was accomplished. I do think that it is pretty safe to predict that, since they are so beholden to lobbyists, unions, and special interest groups, the majority legislative Democrats will be unlikely to agree to any substantive campaign finance reform!

Since we can't tell you yet how the Special Session played out, this is an excellent opportunity to cover a number of quick items:

- Thanks to those who send letters and e-mails about the new Estate tax, yet another ploy to get still more revenue out of lower Fairfield County. When we have a chance in the future, we will discuss some of the responses, and the prospects for amending or tinkering with the tax.
- And speaking of revenue inequities, I hope that you noticed the recent story that the Governor, to her credit, is setting up a task force to look at the state's controversial Educational Cost Sharing Grant (ECS) formula, and the good news is that our former State Senator (and now the distinguished OPM Secretary) Bob Genuario will chair the group. Regular readers of this space will already be aware of the numbers cited in the news story, that mentioned how Hartford received \$6,466 per pupil in educational cost sharing funds last year, Bridgeport \$6,072 per student, and Norwalk \$402 (and are you shocked to learn that Darien gets \$233 per student for all of those millions and millions sent to Hartford?); The bad news is that the party that holds a large legislative majority has an extensive voting record of wanting to make that inequity larger, not smaller!
- I can assure you that in the next few days there will also be a hue and cry from the same legislative majority over some economic development loans that the Connecticut Development Authority actually may not be able to collect (out of the many transactions that they make) which will give the anti-business groups the opportunity to complain that no money should be spent on business loans or venture capital funding by the state; the interesting point will be if anyone in the media notices that legislators in the same majority party will be complaining at the very same time that not enough is being done for "job creation" by the State!
- And on the economic development front, one business group that must be doing well are the sign companies, since lawn signs have become 'de rigeur' at election time (hopefully we can avoid the sign frenzy that has overrun Westport and West Hartford), and hopefully you are brushing up on the local campaign issues, since after all, all politics is local!

Of course we are out of space already. And I don't know what anyone else thinks, but it seems to me that Brian Cashman (who resides up the road in New Canaan) did an absolutely amazing job under adverse circumstances this year as Yankee GM, and I hope he sticks around!

Please feel free to contact me with your concerns and issues. As your state representative, it is my job, and my priority to represent you and to make sure that your needs and concerns are addressed at the capitol. You can write to me at Room 4200, Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106-1591, send me e-mail at [John.Ryan@housegop.state.ct.us](mailto:John.Ryan@housegop.state.ct.us) or call my office toll-free at 1-800-842-1423.